HARATA et al Appl. No. 10/617,700 August 1, 2005

REMARKS

By this amendment, the claims have been amended to consistently refer to through <u>holes</u> and to amend claims 13 and 15 for clarity. Each independent claim has also been amended to refer to a "first" plurality of holes, since the claims thereafter refer to particulars of that particular plurality of holes and not necessarily all holes defined through the plate.

An early and favorable Action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

Michelle N. Lester Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:slj 11th Floor 901 North Glebe Road Arlington, Virginia 22203-1808 Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100